and yet in whose denouement they felt they were involved. The Rhine, they had been told, was their frontier, and thither their gaze turned; Minister of Agriculture, or of Home Affairs—let him be brief, and soon make way for the Foreign Secretary or his substitute.

In such circumstances, a new leader was required. Mr. Baldwin was a home product, a rough-hewn slab of Splendid Isolation. When he visited Aix-les-Bains, it was for a cure, not to establish personal contacts with foreign statesmen. Elections he could win; but with battles threatening, it was time for him to go. One was needed who would venture forth, an umbrella in his hand, and parley with the enemy.

When a business finds itself in difficulties, and a new managing-director is required, it is customary either to make a break with the past and appoint an outsider in the hope that new methods and new vigour may revive a declining enterprise, or to promote the senior ledger-clerk, who has faithfully kept the firm's books for forty years, knows all its affairs, and may be relied on to look after the interests of those from whom he has for so long been accustomed to take his orders. In choosing Mr. Baldwin's successor, the latter alternative was favoured. MacDonald had proclaimed peace, Mr. Baldwin promised it, and Mr. Chamberlain would bring it, palpable—a paper triumphantly waved in the air and uproariously welcomed. Appeasement was henceforth the word, an umbrella henceforth the symbol, sauter pour mieux reculer henceforth the procedure.